

P.O. Box 52 Hawai'i National Park Hawai'i 96718

Mardie Lane, Park Ranger 808-985-6018

## Hawai'i Volcanoes News Release

May 31, 2007

## Park Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Entrance Fee Increases

Hawai'i Volcanoes has new proposed entrance fees and is seeking public comment on the proposed increases.

Under the authority of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, national parks are allowed to keep up to 80 percent of the recreation fees collected.

At Hawai'i Volcanoes, visitors reap the rewards of a diversified investment of their entrance fees in projects that enhance visitor health, safety, and enjoyment. Here are just a few examples of park projects funded by fee revenues:



- The new 1-mile, fully accessible Sulphur Bank Trail invites visitors of all capabilities to explore the park's thermally-active areas of steam vents and solfataras. A paved path meanders through steaming meadow and 'ohi'a forest. At Sulphur Banks, the trail transitions into a 5-foot wide raised boardwalk that extends 1000-feet, protecting natural geothermal processes and allowing visitors to peer into steam vents and be at eye-level with sulfur crystals.
- At Kulanaokuaiki Campground, campers hitch their tent to a star canopy. This delightful little site in a secluded 'ohi'a woodland offers big views of Mauna Loa and easy access to desert wilderness. The fully accessible facility features a restroom, picnic tables, and paved paths to individual campsites.
- Back from the brink of extinction, the Mauna Loa silversword once again flourishes in the park's subalpine. Park staff hand pollinated and collected seeds from the few remaining wild plants, grew the young plants in a greenhouse, and transplanted the seedlings to fenced enclosures that keep out hungry herbivores.

According to Park Superintendent Cindy Orlando, new enhanced revenue will support endeavors that increase visitor enjoyment and protect natural and cultural resources.

"We'll invest in projects that will take us into the next century and will be cause for celebration on August 1, 2016, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hawai'i Volcanoes," said Orlando.

## **EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

Proposed projects include development and installation of exhibit waysides at pullouts along Crater Rim Drive and Chain of Craters Road; creation of interpretive guides for popular trails on Kilauea and Mauna Loa; restoration of the park's cultural landscape around the Kilauea Visitor Center, Volcano House Hotel, and 'Ainahou; rehabilitation and stabilization of park trails to protect resources and improve visitor safety; design and replacement of exhibits in the Jaggar Museum; and construction of a new Visitor Contact Station to Support Visitor Services that will provide 24-hour assistance to visitors, law enforcement, fire and dispatch.

The specific fee increases proposed to go into effect on January 1, 2008 at Hawai'i Volcanoes include the following:

- A proposed increase from \$10 to \$20 for a private vehicle pass that allows the driver and passengers entrance to the park for one to seven days.
- A proposed increase from a maximum \$10 to \$15 for a pass that allows a motorcyclist and passenger entrance to the park for one to seven days.
- A proposed increase from \$5 to \$10 for a pass that allows a pedestrian or bicyclist entrance to the park for one to seven days.
- A proposed increase from \$25 to \$30 for the Hawai'i Tri-Park Pass that allows the cardholder(s) entrance to Hawai'i Volcanoes, Pu'uhonua o Honaunau, and Haleakala national parks for a year from the date of purchase. The Tri-Park Pass, which would have been priced at \$40, has been held to \$30 for the Hawai'i parks. Particularly geared to Hawai'i residents, this is a cost effective alternative to the Interagency Pass for all national parks that is priced at \$80.

Comments on the proposed entrance fees can be mailed to Superintendent, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, P.O. Box 52, Hawai'i National Park, HI 96718 or emailed to HAVO\_Superintendent@nps.gov